



(19)

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(11) EP 0 829 250 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
20.05.1998 Bulletin 1998/21(51) Int. Cl.⁶: A61J 1/20(43) Date of publication A2:
18.03.1998 Bulletin 1998/12

(21) Application number: 97115999.1

(22) Date of filing: 15.09.1997

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SEDesignated Extension States:
AL LT LV RO SI

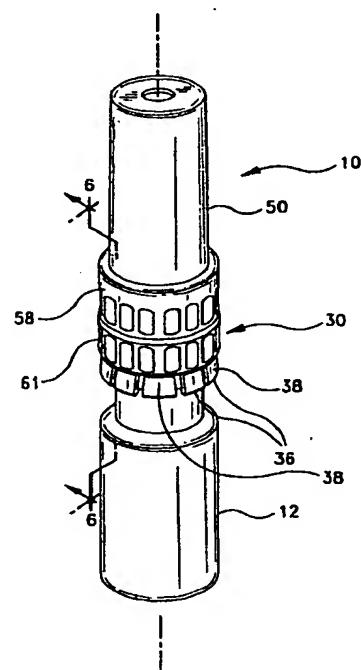
(30) Priority: 17.09.1996 US 714907

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(54) An improved vial connector assembly for a medicament container

(57) A connector assembly (10) provided for efficient flow of liquid into and/or out of a vial, such as a vial (12) containing a lyophilized drug. The connector assembly features a collar (30) mountable to the rim of the vial in a locked position and thereafter removable by an end-user when disposal of the device is desired. A protective cap (50) mountable over the collar includes a annulus-type ring (61) at its proximal end which mounts over locking structure associated with the collar. The ring is secured to the protective cap via one or more user-severable connections. As the cap is urged proximally, the ring places the collar in the locked position with the vial rim, exerting an inwardly-directed force onto the locking structure to secure the collar to the vial rim. The cap (50) can be separated from the ring (61) at its user-severable connections, and the device used in its ordinary matter. When disposal is desired, the ring may be urged proximally out of engagement with the locking structure of the collar. The collar (30) may thereafter be removed from the vial to facilitate separate disposal of those components.

FIG-5





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 97 11 5999

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
P, X	WO 97 10156 A (BIODOME ; ANEAS ANTOINE (FR)) * the whole document *	1-3,5-15	A61J1/20
A	EP 0 161 797 A (KOPFER RUDOLPH J ; SMITH ROBERT E (US)) * page 12, line 22 - line 31; figures *	1,8	
A	US 4 624 393 A (LOPEZ) * the whole document *	1,8	
A,D	US 5 358 501 A (MEYER GABRIEL) * figure 1 *	1,8	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)			
A61J B65D			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	1 April 1998	Godot, T	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			